

**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:42 AM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: Local media and concerns re CapX2020  
**Attachments:** capx2020.media.7.1.09.Winona.Post.docx;  
capx2020.media.7.1.09.Houston.county.news.cover.story.feds.involved.doc;  
Petition.BACKGROUNDER.CETF.FINAL.doc

-----Original Message-----

From: ruthfood@charter.net [mailto:ruthfood@charter.net]  
Sent: Friday, July 03, 2009 8:26 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
Subject: Local media and concerns re CapX2020

Attached are two recent media articles that point out information regarding why CapX2020 is not needed. The articles also express the outrage and concern that local residents have over the dangers of the project and the high costs that would be paid by rate payers and tax payers.

The BACKGROUND sheet is from Citizens Energy Task Force and explains the rationale for the petition for reconsideration of the Certificate of Need in Minnesota.

Thanks for including in your review.

**I-120-001**

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.



[http://www.winonapost.com/stock/functions/VDG\\_Pub/detail.php?choice=31597&home\\_page=1&archives=](http://www.winonapost.com/stock/functions/VDG_Pub/detail.php?choice=31597&home_page=1&archives=)

Area folks not happy about CapX2020 project (07/01/2009)

By Sarah Elmquist

A 700-mile powerline project that could cross the river in Winona and require eminent domain in order to be constructed won't really feed power into Winona, spokespeople for the project confirmed Monday.

Winona's been chosen, along with Alma and La Crosse, Wis., as one of three potential river crossing points for the project, dubbed CapX2020 -- a consortium of electric companies including Xcel Energy. Because there is already a river crossing for existing powerlines near the East End Boat Harbor, and because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has opposed granting additional right-of-way to cross the river, the new towers must cross the river at an existing crossing.

Several citizen groups have opposed the project and appealed a Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) decision to grant a certificate of need for the \$2 billion project. Monday, business owners and residents who feared that the new lines may affect their properties asked questions about what the project might mean for them, some adding that the utilities group had never even contacted them.

If the Winona route is chosen, the new 345kV lines would cross Highway 43 north of I-90, then cross County Road 17 and run northeast of the Bridges golf club, then straight north. At the bluffs before Homer Road, the route would skirt a bluff to its west, cross Homer Road and Highway 61 and follow the river northwest along the edge of the city. It would narrowly pass several industrial businesses as it ran parallel to the Levee before crossing at the East End Boat Harbor, including Peerless Chain and Modern Transport.

Because buildings and tall trees cannot be located within a 150-foot right-of-way for the towers, some property owners feared that their homes or businesses might be affected, even need to be moved. On maps displayed by project representatives, it seemed unclear whether the route along the river would provide wide enough for the 150-foot easements, or, whether existing buildings would have to be moved or torn down for the project.

CapX2020 representatives said that the project hasn't begun finding very specific routes for the lines yet, and that they'd be working with property owners to find the best options that would affect properties the least. Valuations for lands taken for the utility easement, they said, would be determined by using an appraisal process in which compensation is based on the impact the easement has to a particular property.

Some who attended the meeting asked whether the existing 80-foot easement for the current powerline crossing the river in Winona would be enough for the new lines to go up. Grant Stevenson, project manager for Xcel Energy, said that there was a trade-off that could be made in areas where the right-of-way wasn't wide enough -- more frequent towers.

The towers will typically be 105-175 feet tall -- rivaling the Statue of Liberty, with about 750-1,100 feet between towers.

Some who attended the meeting worried about potential health effects of the transmission lines, while others doubted the need for the project altogether. "What's the advantage to me, personally?" asked one woman,

adding, “I don’t want to pay for it.”

The population in Winona County, they said, isn’t even really growing much.

CapX2020 representatives showed a map labeled “Benefit Area,” highlighting Winona, Rochester and La Crosse with a large brown blob. But they admitted the new lines aren’t really for Winona electric consumers. “There will be no direct electric connection to Winona,” said Stevenson.

Southeastern Minnesota is within a nine-county planning region, he told the crowd, in which there had been some population decline. But, he said, use has increased.

That argument contradicts opponents to the project, who have brought forth information from the Securities and Exchange Commission which shows that peak demand for energy has decreased by nearly 12 percent since 2006.

Questions about what percentage of wind energy the new lines might carry were not answered, although CapX2020 officials have claimed the project will be needed for the Minnesota renewable energy goal of 25 percent renewable by 2025.

But Stevenson admitted Monday that the project wasn’t all about wind. He said that it “doesn’t directly impact wind [energy development],” but that it “lays part of the foundation” needed to develop wind energy.

Where it goes

Opponents to the project have long claimed that the lines will really be used to carry coal-generated power to metropolises like Chicago and beyond.

Stevenson said that CapX2020 “wasn’t involved” with additional projects that would carry the lines eastward, but said that they will go east. He referenced a project being studied called The Green Power Express, which would add about 3,000 miles of “extra high voltage” 765kV lines stretching from North and South Dakota, through Minnesota to Iowa and Wisconsin, then on to Illinois and eastward.

Stevenson also said that if all goes as planned, the project will begin construction in 2011 and would “supply the region” until 2025, when a new transmission line would be needed.

Learn more

CapX2020 is currently being studied through a Federal Environmental Impact Statement needed to proceed with the project. The opportunity to provide comments about environmental and routing concerns is open until July 25 and can be directed to: Stephanie Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Development, Utilities Programs, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2244, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250–1571, or e-mail [stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov).

Several citizens groups have also challenged the PUC’s certificate of need for the project, asking that the record be reopened to reflect data not studied previously that shows declining peak energy demands. Keep reading the Winona Post for the full story.

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### **CETF PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION**

**On June 11, 2009** CETF filed a Petition for Reconsideration of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission decision granting certificates of need for the CapX2020 Projects focused on the issues where the Commission's decision is most vulnerable on appeal. **CETF** argued:

- There was insufficient evidence in the record for the Commission to determine that the eastern endpoint of the Brookings Project should be at Hampton, Minnesota.
- The Commission's approval of the upsized double-circuit alternative to the CapX2020 Projects was unsupported by evidence of need and the Commission exceeded its authority in certifying this upsize in the absence of need.
- The Commission's certification of the La Crosse Project violated the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act, certificate of need law and rules pertaining to power line prohibition areas.
- The Commission erred by failing to shift the burden to project proponents to show the lack of feasible and prudent alternatives that would not impair the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge and other protected natural resources.
- The Commission erred in certifying the La Crosse Project since there are feasible and prudent local generation and transmission upgrade alternatives to meet the needs for the La Crosse Project that do not impair the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge and other protected natural resources.
- The Commission erred in failing to reopen the record to consider newly-discovered evidence of demand declines and reasonable forecasts below threshold levels relied upon for Applicants' claims of need.
- The Commission erred in certifying the La Crosse Project without considering conflicts with federal regulations and policies regarding fragmentation of national wildlife refuge habitat.

**CETF** asked the Commission to reconsider its decision and make the following determinations:

- The Commission's certification of the Brookings Project should be subject to a condition allowing flexibility in routing proceedings to determine the Twin Cities end point either at Lake Marion or Hampton based on evidence of costs and benefits of the alternatives.
- The Commission's certification of the Brookings or Fargo 345 kV lines should be modified so that it does not include the double-circuited upsized alternative.
- The Commission should void its certification of the La Crosse Project.



## PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION – OTHER CAPX2020 PARTIES

On June 11, other parties also sought reconsideration of the Commission's decision. **No CapX** asked that the entire record of need be reopened due to the significance of demand decline and due to the relationship between the CapX2020 Projects and other regional transmission projects that were not considered by the Commission.

Both the CapX2020 utilities and the Office of Energy Security requested that the record be reopened due to their opposition to the Wind Conditions on the Brookings line. The utilities proposed that the conditions be eliminated. The OES proposed that the requirement for wind generation on the Brookings line be weakened, so that no specific amount of wind would be prescribed and suggested a paper "compliance filing" to document whether the new capacity will be used for wind or non-renewable generation. Documents can be found on e-dockets, CN-06-115 at <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showeDocketsSe arch&showEdocket=true>

The **CapX2020** utilities' main objection to the Wind Conditions on the Brookings line appears to be that the could accelerate the utilities Renewable Energy Standard milestones by several years (CapX Petition, p. 4) and that "Limiting outlet capacity to renewable generation means outlet could not be used for non-renewable generation." (CapX Petition, p., 6).

The utilities expressed the concern that coordinating the Brookings Project so that wind generation is needed by customers could result in a "delay in the Brookings Project to better align with customer needs." (CapX Petition, p. 9) The **CapX2020** utilities admitted that "neither Applicants nor other utilities need additional wind generation from this area in the 2012-2013 timeframe," (CapX Petition, p. 14).

Although the **CapX2020** utilities did not ask that the time frame for constructing the Brookings Project be extended or need reconsidered, this seems the logical result of their argument that the \$650 million line (which was proposed and marketed to provide 700 MW of renewable energy) is not needed for wind by 2013 by any of the utilities proposing it.

The **OES** proposal to weaken the Wind Conditions and provide a compliance filing on renewable and non-renewable resources is equally paradoxical. The OES attempts to justify weakening the Wind Conditions based on concerns about unrelated dockets. The OES suggests that the timing of "upsizing" the Brookings line by adding a second circuit may affect capacity (OES Petition, pp. 8-9), but the future need for "upsizing" was explicitly outside of the scope of the CapX proceedings.

The **OES** then suggests that "new facts" suggest that the Brookings Project capacity, like that of any other transmission is "a result of the performance of the transmission system, not an individual line" and that the Commission should take an "overall systems approach to transmission planning rather than a piecemeal transmission line-by-line project-by-project approach." (OES Petition., p. 9-10) Although framed as an argument to weaken the Wind Conditions, this argument by OES seems similar to the **NoCapX** argument that the record of need should be reopened to consider evidence pertaining to the entire proposed transmission system of which the CapX2020 Projects are a part.

The **OES** also suggest that the Wind Conditions would result in costs to ratepayers (unspecified) and that, if Xcel is required to comply with the Wind Conditions they will not proceed with the RIGO projects. No offer of proof was made of evidence to support these claims.

<http://www.houstonconews.com/articles/2009/07/01/news/00lead.txt>

**COVER STORY:**

Published - Wednesday, July 01, 2009

**Feds make an entrance into CapX2020**

By Ryan Stotts of the Houston County News

The U.S. Agricultural Department's Rural Utilities Service officially has begun looking into the proposed CapX2020 high-voltage line project.

The federal agency hosted a meeting June 23 at La Crescent's American Legion to collect public comment and explain the review process.

The service will do a single environmental impact statement for the project, said Stephanie Strength of the RUS, which will be the lead federal agency on the project.

Dairyland Power Cooperative had approached the RUS about financing its portion of the project, an estimated 11 percent, she said.

It will take at least two years to complete the federal review and make a funding decision, she said.

Dairyland first asked the agency about funding at least three years ago, said Chuck Thompson of Dairyland Power. It would take Dairyland 30 to 35 years to repay the approximately \$50 million needed.

The environmental impact statement, including comments from the meeting, likely will be completed by summer 2010, followed by a public hearing, Strength said.

Tim Carlsgaard, of CapX2020, said they have identified dual routes for the 345-kilovolt power lines along existing routes into La Crosse, Winona or Alma, Wis., but a preferred route has not been chosen.

Also yet to be determined is where the lines would cross the Mississippi River, he said.

Lines could run along or just north of Interstate 90, then cross south into La Crescent, he said.

If the lines go into Winona, he said, the route could run through agricultural land north of I-90. The Alma route would run through farmland north of Plainview.

A routing permit application will likely be filed some time in the fall, Carlsgaard said, and that will start a 12- to 15-month process when more public meetings will be held.

Early in the process, he said, after the Office of Energy Security has a chance to review the application, people will be able to propose and suggest alternative routes.

“Whether it’s just a small segment,” Carlsgaard said, “a small area, or 20 miles, or whatever it is.”

On the Wisconsin side, he said, a single routing and need permit will likely be filed before the end of the year.

Jeremy Chipps, of the Citizens Energy Task Force, said the massive project isn’t needed — and the group has petitioned the state to look into whether it should be built.

Chipps said even the most “sophisticated electric minds” in the industry, on a state and federal level, are doubting the efficacy of such a project.

He believes localized renewable energy should be investigated and analyzed, he said.

But, Chipps said, the truth is “the country lacks the very analytical tools to do the research to find out what our needs will even be.”

With federal coffers now being opened to fund the project, the decreasing demand for power, as well as safer alternatives than CapX2020, should be scrutinized, he said.

Gene Semin of La Crescent Township said he supports the project, even though he already has two large power lines in front of his house.

“We’re going to need the electrical power in this country to develop our manufacturing base so that our economy can recover,” Semin said.

<http://www.houstonconews.com/articles/2009/07/01/news/01capxchallenge.txt>

Published - Wednesday, July 01, 2009

[POST COMMENT](#) | [READ COMMENTS](#) (No comments posted.)

### **La Crescent group formalizes CapX2020 challenge**

By Mark Sommerhauser for the Houston County News

A southeast Minnesota group wants state regulators to rethink a decision to let energy companies build high-voltage lines through the La Crescent area.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in April granted a certificate of need for the CapX2020 proposal, a \$1.7 billion plan to build a network of 345-kilovolt power lines throughout the state, including a line from the Twin Cities to La Crosse, Wis.

But the La Crescent-based Citizens Energy Task Force petitioned the commission last week to reconsider, asking it to place new conditions on lines in western Minnesota and to fully retract its support for the La Crosse line. Energy companies say the new lines will bolster reliability and aid wind-energy development in Minnesota, but environmental groups say the lines aren’t needed and shouldn’t cross the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge.

Regulators permitted CapX2020 based on projected increases in energy demand.

But energy usage actually declined nationwide in the first quarter of 2009, said Paula Maccabee, attorney for the Citizens Energy Task Force. Maccabee also noted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants the line to steer clear of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge, and has said it won't grant new right-of-way for new power lines through the refuge.

"If we can solve our energy problems without harming a wildlife refuge, we should use that alternative," Maccabee said.

CapX2020 spokesman Tim Carlsgaard said the new lines wouldn't need additional right-of-way through the refuge, and could follow existing rights-of-way. While electricity consumption has dipped in recent months, Carlsgaard said Xcel Energy June 23 was nearing a June single-day record for power consumption, as a Midwest heat wave caused consumers to crank up their air conditioners.

"We still believe we have a strong case" for the new lines, Carlsgaard said. "It would be irresponsible on our part to not look at the long range, and today is just a perfect example."

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission plans to discuss the reconsideration petition at its regular meeting July 14 in St. Paul.

**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:09 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020 Powerline Project

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From: konalilah@yahoo.com [mailto:konalilah@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2009 7:26 PM  
To: scott.ek@state.mn.us  
Cc: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
Subject: CapX2020 Powerline Project

Friday, July 10, 2009

We were just informed about the proposed route of the power line. This is not acceptable! It would be within 300 hundred feet of our home and would destroy our property value. We have planted over one thousand trees to maintain the natural habitat. Our property is full of wildlife, and our views are one of the best features. When we purchased our acreage over fifteen years ago nothing as devastating as this was even conceivable!

Our neighbor, Larry Coffing, is an organic dairy farmer and it is proven that this would be detrimental to his farming operation. There has to be a better route for this power line to be placed.

Concerned homeowners,  
Bruce and Mary Kay Forland  
4919 50th Street West  
Webster, MN 55088  
952- 652-2772

**I-121-001**

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**Kessler, Ellen**

**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 2:59 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: Capx2020 routing input

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From: Steve Gau [mailto:sgau@sleepyeyetel.net]  
Sent: Sunday, July 05, 2009 8:47 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
Subject: Capx2020 routing input

Dear Ms Strength,

We asked that you take the following into account as you consider routes for the CAPX2020 project:

- Many small acreage landowners have invested heavily in their property - both financially and emotionally. Many have built in remote areas because they wanted to be in a rural natural setting (no traffic, no power lines, etc). Running 345 KV lines and tower thru these properties is devastating. To make it worse, there is little compensation relative to the impact. We recently built (2000) our home where it is because we wanted to be close to nature. When we purchased our land, T158 was classified as a minimum maintenance road. While it is now maintained (plowed), it is still quite rustic. The canopy of trees all but covers the road. The proposed B-70 route would destroy the rustic setting of our home. As our acreage is relatively small, the negative impact of the proposed power lines would be large. I understand that route B-70 is no longer being considered. However, there are many land owners much like myself in areas where routes are still considered. Please give careful consideration to the impact of such small acreages.
- I-122-004** |
- I-122-001** | Avoid clear cutting paths thru forested areas. It would be better to place lines in areas that are already scarred by roads, existing power lines, etc.
- Our property is on a tree-lined town road that has been washed out several times over the last few years. Clearing trees to run a power would likely impact the effect of erosion. Again, I think it makes sense to place lines in areas already scarred by roads, existing power lines, etc.
- I-122-002** | Our area has historic wagon trails and homesteads including those associated with the Laura Ingalls Wilder family.
- Protected eagles use this forested area to nest.
- I-122-003** | There has not been an adequate correlation made between those impacted by the line and those that benefit from the line. Residents in our area are impacted to serve the power needs of those in WI.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve and Amy Gau

59178 411th Ave

Mazeppa, MN 55956

507-843-5312 (home)

**I-122-001**

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**I-122-002**

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-122-003**

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

**I-122-004**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to residential land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

507-287-2876 (work)



**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:10 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: capx2020 lacrosse route  
**Attachments:** DSCN0750.JPG

-----Original Message-----

From: jgilmer2@mac.com [mailto:jgilmer2@mac.com]  
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2009 9:30 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
Subject: capx2020 lacrosse route

Dear Ms. Strength:

My name is James Gilmer and I am writing you today to let you know of my very strong opposition to this project.

**I-123-003** | The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.

I live in tiny Sather Valley. The proposed route will cut the valley in two and will pass directly thru my farm. I hope you will take a moment and look at the photo I have attached. This photo overlooks my farm. If the towers are placed where proposed they will sit less than 500 feet from where my wife is sitting.

My son planned to build here when he gets out of the Air Force and already has the permits. His home would sit directly beneath the line. I had hoped to see Grandchildren living there some day and walking the road to the school bus. Clearly if this project comes to pass that wont occur. How will I be compensated for this type of loss.? How do you put a dollar value on that?

I have searched all my life for this spot and invested my life savings to purchase it. How will I get that investment back? Who will buy it?

**I-123-001** | Where do I go? My house sits 300 feet from where the line is to cross. I have buried three  
**I-123-002** | parents who all died due to one form of cancer or another. What are my health risks if I stay?

I hope with all my heart you try to put yourself in my place and then remember this scenario is identical to hundreds if not thousands of other families just like mine.

Please don't let this nightmare come to pass.

Sincerely yours,

James Gilmer  
245 Sather Valley road  
Houston Mn 55943

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**I-123-001**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to residential land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments will be solicited after its publication.

**I-123-002**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-123-003**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line, potential impacts to health and safety with regard to EMF, potential socioeconomic impacts to property values, potential impacts to agricultural resources, and potential impacts to wildlife, particularly federal and state regulated species will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.



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**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:12 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: opposition to capx2020

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**From:** jgilmer@hotmail.com [mailto:jgilmer@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2009 11:13 PM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** opposition to capx2020

Dear Ms. Strength-

My name is Jayne Gilmer and I live at 245 Sather Valley Rd. in Houston, MN. My husband Jim and I purchased 120 acres of our farm in 2006 and last June bought the remaining 180 acres. Being that we have been registered landowners for 3 years and just last Wednesday found out about the shocking proposal of capx2020 is one thing, but the reasons for my opposition are too numerous to list here. The fact that one of the proposed routes would run directly through my property without having the opportunity to have vehemently opposed this decision is directly linked to an argument made by Citizens Task Force attorney Paula Maccabee. She found that the PUC Excel Energy's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission from 2006 to 2008 show energy demands dropped from the minimum requirement for new lines. "That's a number, 24,701 megawatts, that the administrative judge specifically relied on in finding there was a regional need for the projects." Those demands should require the commission re-open the record. The people in this area do not need, REQUIRE or want to pay for this project. I respectfully ask you to consider all the issues that affect me and my family.

sincerely,  
Jayne Gilmer  
245 Sather Valley Rd.  
Houston, MN 55943  
763-229-5387

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Lauren found her dream laptop. [Find the PC that's right for you.](#)

## I-124-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-124-001

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**Kessler, Ellen**

**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:04 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** kazmier@execpc.com [mailto:kazmier@execpc.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 07, 2009 12:14 PM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:**

Dear CapX2020,

I am responding to the proposed transmission line routes that are being explored for the new line. I am strongly opposed to the route that goes along Belvidere Ridge Road. I am a property owner at the corner of CTH O and Belvidere Ridge Rd, and became aware of the routes after the public info mtgs in June. I have asked to be placed on the mailing list for future mailings as no one contacted me prior to this!

I-126-001 |

I am opposed to this route because it obviously impacts me directly, but also because it just does not make any sense! The logical thing to do is to upgrade the existing poles and go along the current route. The easements are already obtained, the route is cleared and there will be minimal if any impact upon property owners or property values that has not already occurred. To site the line along Belvidere Ridge would cost more, result in a route that would require an excessive amount of tree clearing and disruption to the area and local environment. The expense of routing an entirely new line is astronomical compared to the cost of upgrading an existing line. As a rate payer this will have negative and unnecessary consequences and costs to me.

I-126-002 |

Thank you for considering my comments. I am officially requesting that I be kept apprised of any and all issues, routes, proposals etc related to this line.

Sincerely  
Ron Kazmierczak  
3028 CTII C  
Green Bay, WI 54313

### I-126-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

### I-126-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

file:///P:/2007/07180025.00\_CAPX/Documents/Community Outreach/Public Comments/NEPA RUS/To Be Uploaded/FW capx2020c.htm

**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:12 AM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: capx2020  
  
**Categories:** Purple Category, Pending

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**From:** Lewis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Lewis@davey.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 09, 2009 11:23 AM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** Re: capx2020

Stephanie

Thank you for your prompt reply. My other question or concern is; how will the property owner be compensated for the burden of the ROW on their property?

Thanks

Jim

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**To:** Lewis, Jim  
**Cc:** Lilley, Bliss ; cat@dairynet.com  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 09 08:35:02 2009  
**Subject:** RE: capx2020

Mr. Lewis,

Thank you for contacting me with your questions on the proposed project. The specific location of the ROW has not been determined and will be the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be developed over the course of the next year. The recently released information and the upcoming meetings will detail the process taken to identify the macro-corridors that will be further refined through the EIS process. Public comments will be used in refining the corridors. All documents released through the EIS process will be available on our website:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm#Dairyland%20Power%20Cooperative,%20Inc>

Please feel free to contact me with further comments or questions.

Sincerely,

file:///P:/2007/07180025.00\_CAPX/Documents/Co...ents/NEPA RUS/To Be Uploaded/FW capx2020c.htm (1 of 2) [7/22/2009 8:35:57 AM]

## I-127-001

Your comment has been noted. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would provide compensation in the form of a one-time easement payment to property owners who host transmission lines. Property owners would retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures. RUS anticipates that the CapX2020 Utilities would work with property owners to negotiate easement payments after the permitting process.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

file:///P:/2007/07180025.00\_CAPX/Documents/Community Outreach/Public Comments/NEPA RUS/To Be Uploaded/FW capx2020c.htm

Stephanie A. Strength

Environmental Protection Specialist/RD

1400 Independence Ave. SW Room # 2244

Washington, DC 20250-1571

(202) 720-0468

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**From:** Jim.Lewis@davey.com [mailto:Jim.Lewis@davey.com]

**Sent:** Monday, June 08, 2009 6:09 PM

**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC

**Cc:** Jim.Lewis@davey.com

**Subject:** capx2020

Stephanie

I can see where demand for energy would necessitate the construction of new transmission corridors. I may be directly impacted by the construction and am concerned as to specifically where the ROWs will be placed. The info sent to me isn't specific enough to answer my question. I do have property near the west boundary of the proposed 345 Kv route option. Is there specific information regarding the specific properties in which the trans lines and towers will be placed?

I live outside the state of Minnesota.

If you do not have the above info, could you please direct me to the right person?

Kind regards

Jim Lewis

file:///P:/2007/07180025.00\_CAPX/Documents/Co...ents/NEPA RUS/To Be Uploaded/FW capx2020c.htm (2 of 2) [7/22/2009 8:35:57 AM]

**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:36 AM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: EIS Scoping Meeting

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From: caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com [mailto:caroline.lexa@ingenixconsulting.com]  
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 11:58 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
Subject: EIS Scoping Meeting

Dear Stephanie,

Please ensure that the larger picture is addressed and a pragmatic approach is taken when reviewing the scope of the CAPX2020 project. I am a homeowner living near the proposed Brookings CAPX2020 line. The following are my families concerns:

\* If there is an alternative plan that is less costly to rate payers, such as using local power and conservation, please look at this option seriously. Sometimes a simpler and less costly approach just makes sense.

\* With the recession, people around me seem much more consciences about the money they spend on energy consumption. People are cutting back and being careful about their energy use. Please use recent forecasts that take into account the changing attitudes towards energy consumption!

\* Please include the Brookings line with the scope, this is one large project. It's all connected.

\* Please consider not only the visual impact but also the property value impact and the potential increased risk for cancer when reviewing the cost/benefits of this project.

\* Please consider alternatives, such as local power generation and a no build option for the entire project.

\* Please review the extent to which CAPX2020 will facilitate more coal generation and the environmental increasing coal generation.

I am a parent of two very young children living on a farm that has been in our family for over 100 years. I don't want to have to choose between exposing myself to electromagnetic fields and leaving the farm we all love so much. But even if my particular family isn't considered, I'm just not sure this project makes sense. Is this really the best option? The least expensive? The most efficient? What if there's a better idea that would accomplish the power needs without disrupting so many lives? Couldn't we product wind power here? It's awfully windy at our house on the farm. Please consider the big picture, the entire project. Is this really the best way?

Best Wishes,

Caroline, Mike, Inga (age 3) and Vlad (age 2) Lexa

Webster, MN

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**I-128-001**

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.



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**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:11 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: cap 2020

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Patricia.Lloyd2@qwest.com [mailto:Patricia.Lloyd2@qwest.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2009 12:08 PM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** cap 2020

Dear Shephanie,  
i am a homeowner and a landowner in rice county on dent ave ,my 55 acers of land runs along the proposed new highline route.It is of major concern of mine NOT to want the line because planning on building on the northside which will be very close to the lines. I bought the land many years ago wanting the oppertunity so have my children build and stay in the area.PLEASE take into consideration NOT letting the line pass by my land and the several others in the air park of webster.  
Thank You  
Patty Lloyd  
5235 Dent Ave  
Webster MN

**I-129-001**

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:38 AM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: Capx 2020 project

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**From:** kathym@independentlifestyles.org [mailto:kathym@independentlifestyles.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 5:20 PM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** Capx 2020 project

Dear Stephanie

I cannot attend the meeting that is going to be held in Clearwater, MN on July 2, 2009 regarding the Capx 2020 project. We live on State Hwy 24 NW and are in one of the proposed routes for the project. The other route is following Interstate 194 but I have read that they are concerned about the power lines or towers possible falling on the interstate. The alternative route which would go right through my front yard and put the towers in close proximity to all of the homes on Hwy 24 doesn't seem to concern them what if it fell on our homes would that be any less dangerous. It still hasn't been proven that those power lines and towers do not cause cancer to people who are in a close proximity to them. Two years ago MNDOT bought some of our frontal property to widen Hwy 24 so if this project comes in and buys what they want for the project they would own right up to our front porch we would not even own our front yard we would lose all of our trees and we have a stone waterfall in our front yard also which we would no longer own. I believe that things like this should follow the interstate and stay out of residential neighborhoods. I think it would be a lot more cost effective for them also. Please help me have a voice in this and voice my concerns to the appropriate people. Thank you for your time.

Kathy & Ron MaKarrall  
17080 State Hwy 24 NW  
Clearwater, MN 55320

The information contained in this email is PRIVATE AND/OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. It is intended only for the use of the designated recipient(s) named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of the information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by email and destroy the original message. Thank you.

**I-130-001**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**I-130-002**

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-130-001 |

I-130-002 |

**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:36 AM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020

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From: c-a.pankow@mchsi.com [mailto:c-a.pankow@mchsi.com]  
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 11:07 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Ms. Strength,

I am writing to you about the CapX2020 project. Specifically the Cedar Mountain Substation area - Hampton route options. I live in Lonsdale, MN. We are bordering the possible southern route of this project.

I would like to express some of my concerns. My first concern is that of necessity. The amount of power you are planning to put through this area seems excessive. Most people are trying to conserve energy and our houses and appliances are becoming more efficient. The housing boom has slowed down. Do we need to rethink the plan?

Secondly, it scares me that you are telling farmers to attach chains to the back of their tractors if they are operating under the lines. Why? Because it could be dangerous? I, for one, do not want myself, my children, my friends, my neighbors, or strangers exposed to this. Keep this line out of people's yards, towns and fields. Find a route that will impact no one. What about I-90?

Also, why have these massive lines cross the state. Why not have more windmills in action throughout the state. There is wind energy throughout. Use it and do not carry the energy so far across lines.

It's not too late to reconsider this plan and this route. Please at least consider it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Pankow

**I-131-001**

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**Kessler, Ellen**

**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:10 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line

-----Original Message-----

**From:** gordy@paumen.com [mailto:gordy@paumen.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 12, 2009 11:02 AM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line

Stephanie

I do NOT support the CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line for the following reasons.  
Please do not allow such a project destroy the pristine river valley.

- I-132-001** | 1. Updated forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project;
- I-132-002** | 2. The CapX2020 La Crosse ultra high voltage power line will cause environmental harm -- including visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi Flyway.
- I-132-003** | 3. The La Crosse Project should be considered with other CapX2020 power lines which create the potential for transmission of coal power east from the Dakotas to load centers east of Minnesota. The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line result in additional adverse impacts of the project.
- I-132-004** | 4. Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to ratepayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants;
- I-132-005** | 5. Taxpayers should not finance any portion of the CapX2020 La Crosse Project through the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

Gordy Paumen  
Network Consultant

**I-132-001**

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**I-132-002**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-132-003**

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid. The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

**I-132-004**

CELL 612-749-6986  
[www.paumencomputerservices.com](http://www.paumencomputerservices.com)

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-132-005**

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

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**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:36 AM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: CapX 2020

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**From:** silvmem@myclearwave.net [mailto:silvmem@myclearwave.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 12:42 AM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** CapX 2020

Stephanie Strength,

I am writing in regards to the CapX 2020 transmission line project proposed for our area. We are on the alternate route but still greatly concerned. We live in Wheatland Township, Section 22, Wheatland Township in Rice County, MN. Our farm runs alongside Highway 19. If the lines go on that proposed route, we would have these huge poles running along our entire farm. There are many, many homes that it would impact very greatly because of their close proximity to the road. Our renter for our farmland, uses his airplane to check on his crops. There is a gas venting station that would be located almost right under the lines plus a bison herd which would graze right under the lines.

Another route suggested by a member of the Task Force Board would take the line right past our home & many other homes, all within 75' to 100' from the road. On this route it would impact a couple of dairy herds, one with 175 head of cattle, a lake, marshland, a beekeeping business & a garden center.

We cannot tolerate having a monstrosity such as this in our area, or anywhere else. We cannot afford to have our health, crops, livestock & livelihood destroyed by something that is not needed but being proposed because of money & greed.

Please support us in our concerns.

Thank you!

Clarence & Delores Salaba  
9376 60th St. West  
Lonsdale, MN 55046

Section 22, Wheatland Township, Rice County, MN

## **I-133-001**

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.



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**Kessler, Ellen**

**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:02 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: comment on capx20/20

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**From:** joan schnabel/jeff falk [mailto:joanjeff@centurytel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 06, 2009 4:58 PM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** comment on capx20/20

**I-134-001**

Dear Stephanie, My name is Joan Schnabel and I spoke with you at the Centerville/Galesville meeting. I sincerely hope that you do not allow them to build these lines, but if you do, they follow the I-90 corridor and cross at LaCrosse. I just got back from paddling my Kayak from Whitman Landing down to Indian Creek and back. I paddled and Snick, my Brittany, swam and ran along side. It was wonderful, Eagles, Great blue Herons, lots of Kingfishers, frogs and a zillion dragonflies mostly widow skimmers and green damers. It was so beautiful, I can't tell you, except to ask you to remember back to when you were a little girl out on the river. Would that paddle have been different next to gigantic power lines? Of course. And indeed one proposed route goes right down Kamrowski road, right by there. I cringe to think of the lines going through Trempealeau Wildlife refuge. WE have despoiled so much of our natural habitat do we have to take the refuges as well? I sometimes wonder if anyone remembers the meaning of the word "refuge?" So on behalf of all the birds that use the Mississippi flyway as their primary migration route, and the bald eagles that nest here, and the peregrine falcons that have begun returning to their traditional cyries on the cliffs on the river, and the little known, but significant population of Golden Eagles (88 on count week this January) that call this area their winter home, I ask you not to put the power lines here.

When I look at the web site for Capx 20/20 I see this quote.

"The region is experiencing tremendous job and population growth, leading to a steady increase in electricity usage. "

**I-134-002**

Well that didn't jibe with what I thought, so I went to the US Census data, and this region is NOT experiencing tremendous population growth. that is an out and out fabrication. It is true that Rochester, MN and because of that Omstead County are experiencing significant growth. Rochester lies to the west of the proposed lines. But if you look at the region, consisting of LaCrosse county, Houston County, Winona county, Trempealeau county and Buffalo county, the counties most impacted by these routes, there is hardly any population growth to speak of., about 3.5% over a 10 year period. I will be happy to send you the complete data, or you can find it at the census bureau site on the web. My point is, that if the Website for Capx20/20 starts off with a lie, how can I believe anything else that they are saying? I do not believe that these lines are for the benefit of this region.

**I-134-003**

I believe, that they will be used to carry electricity for the urban areas of Milwaukee and Chicago. I do not wish to see the aesthetics of the region damaged, and the birds and wildlife impacted for something that is of no benefit to this area.

thanks for reading this, Joan Schnabel Fountain City WI 54629 phone. 608-687-8486

### **I-134-001**

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

### **I-134-002**

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

### **I-134-003**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:03 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020 Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345-kV project  
**Attachments:** E I Transmission Line.pdf; revised Alternate Route.jpg

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From: Paul Schwinghammer [mailto:[paul@redbarnridge.com](mailto:paul@redbarnridge.com)]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2009 11:35 AM  
To: [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us)  
Cc: [raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us); Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
Subject: CapX2020 Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345-kV project

Hello David,  
It was a pleasure to speak with you at the Clearwater Town Hall. As per your request, I have put my thoughts in writing.  
The attached documents are in regards to the EIS process for CapX2020.  
Please feel free to forward these comment on to others.

Thank You!  
Paul Schwinghammer  
Schwinghammer Family Partnership  
320.420.4937  
[Paul@redbarnridge.com](mailto:Paul@redbarnridge.com)

**I-135-001** | Re: CapX2020 Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345-kV project

Power line alternate options (At the point in which County road 136 turns from a north/south route to an east/ west route in St. Augusta) - see attached map)

The "Primary Route" (along I-94) is the preferred route by the vast majority of the citizens of the area. From an environmental impact stand point the "Alternate Routes" have a number of issues that are of great concern to me and I suggest that the alternate options be amended. Listed below are some of those concerns and other possible options. The local community and I are very willing to work within the power line process to help construct this much needed resource.

1. Neenah Creek, a MN state designated trout stream, will be crossed three times in less than a mile due to the small jog in the "Alternate Routes". This is due to the small jog and the two 90 degree turns in the routes. In addition to the trout stream this route would also cross over oak savanna forests, a housing development, historic areas and would pass near Mr. Joe Kenning's home and farm yard twice.

- While it is commendable that the power company is trying to utilize an existing right-of-way, we the citizens of the area would prefer altering the proposed "Alternate Routes" and would be willing to help establish the less intrusive route's right-of-way. The proposed "Alternate Routes" could easily be changed by eliminating the small jog in the route and the two 90 degree turns. The power line would then continue straight west thus following County road 136 at the point in which it turns westward.

2. The proposed "Alternate Routes" will go past Mr. Kenning's house two times. Mr. Kenning is best known as the "Father" of the stray voltage awareness movement. The proposed "Alternate Routes" could be seen as a direct attack on Mr. Kenning for his years of law suits he brought against Northern States Power (NSP) Company. Mr. Kenning argued the impact of stray voltage on his farm animals and his family's health due to a NSP power transmission line over his property. Mr. Kenning had fought with NSP for years before NSP finally agreed to move the power transmission line. When I read the intended "Alternate Routes" my first thought was "are they trying to give Mr. Kenning a heart attack." Given the intensity of the previous on-going court battles, I could easily see a court agreeing with Mr. Kennings heirs should his health fail.

- The proposed alternate routes could easily be changed by eliminating the small jog in the route and the two 90 degree turns. The power line would then continue straight west thus following County Road 136 at the point in which County Road 136 turns westward. The power lines would still go along Mr. Kenning's property but it would be a significant distance from his home and farm animals. The power line would also go along the edge of our family property instead of thru the middle. This change to the proposed alternate route would eliminate construction cost and environmental impact on the trout stream, oak forest, and people

3. The historic St. Boniface Chapel and the historic St. Augusta Trail are located within the Chapel Hill Farm. The Chapel Hill Farm is in the process of being developed into a Village or community that highlights the historical significance of the sites and makes the sites a historical destination. The plans can be seen at [www.chapelhillmn.com](http://www.chapelhillmn.com)

- The current "Alternate Routes" with its small jog will cut through the middle of the Chapel Hill Farm thus effectively killing the project. This would result in a loss of a significant opportunity to preserve and highlights one of the areas oldest sites with historical significance and would be a great loss to the area.

Conclusion: As previously stated, the "Primary Route" is the preferred route by the vast majority of the citizens of the area. While it has been stated that the MnDOT is opposed to the "Primary Route", this route will have the least negative impact on the environment and the citizens. As an environmental consultant, I understand many of the possible issues and remedies. The DOT's opposition seems to be stated as a "safety" issue. While safety is the number one priority, it can be used as a "red herring"- who can argue against it. The terrain is such that in much of the area along I-94 the ditch slopes are quite high thus eliminating the possibility of vehicles hitting the poles. It is also my understanding that some poles are designed to accommodate vehicle impact and many additional measures can be put in place to resolve any of the DOT's safety concerns.

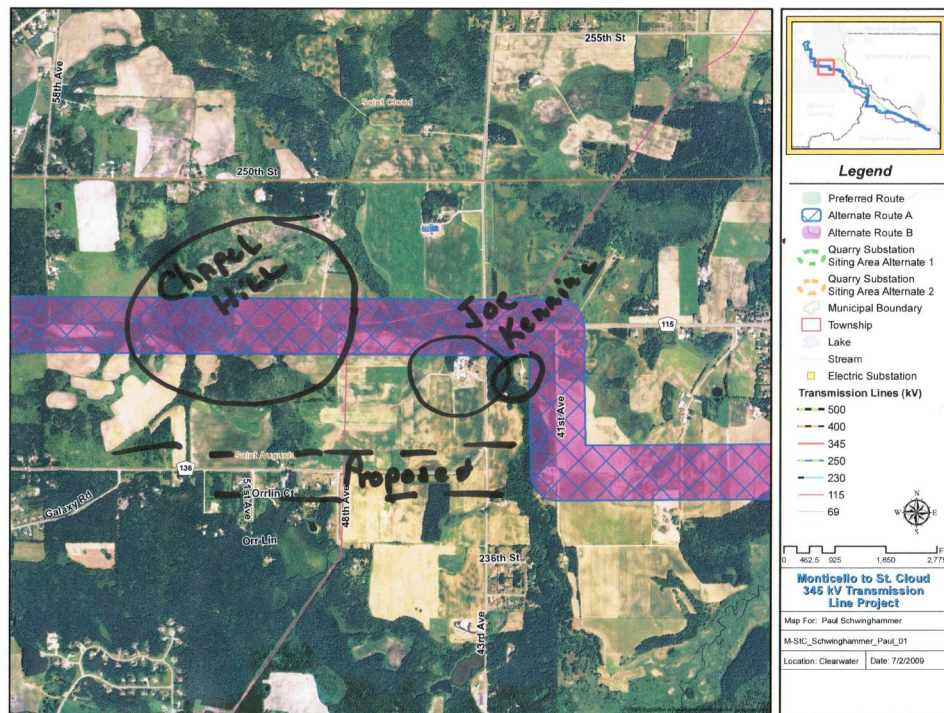
Thank You  
Paul Schwinghammer  
3135 Co. Rd 136  
St. Cloud 56301  
320.420.4937  
Paul@redbarnridge.com

Property location: 4801 250th Street South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

**I-135-001**

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

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**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:18 AM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: CAPX2020 - Route B-27  
  
**Categories:** pulled

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**From:** senn.margaret@mayo.edu [mailto:senn.margaret@mayo.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2009 10:17 AM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** CAPX2020 - Route B-27

I-136-001

This route is too close to homes it comes with in 1/4 mile of my house which is just south of Hammond Minnesota. I do not want this route to affect my family and my neighbors. I am opposed to route B-27.

Margaret A.S. Senn, MS, RN  
Informatics Nurse Specialist  
Department of Nursing  
Phone: 507-255-8909  
[senn.margaret@mayo.edu](mailto:senn.margaret@mayo.edu)

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Mayo Clinic  
200 First Street S.W.  
Rochester, MN 55905  
[www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org)

### I-136-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.



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**Kessler, Ellen**

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**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:10 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: La Crosse Capx2020 project  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

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**From:** TVRCHOTA@amfam.com [mailto:TVRCHOTA@amfam.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2009 10:34 AM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Cc:** JGilmer@commercialcollectors.com; doctor@karenavrchota.com  
**Subject:** La Crosse Capx2020 project

Dear Stephanie,

I have just been informed of the Capx2020 project going through southeastern Minnesota. I have a good friend as well as sister & Brother in Law that live in the Valley near Houston Mn. This is one of the most scenic areas left in Minnesota & many of us feel that it needs to be preserved as such. A high Power transmission line-such as the one being proposed, would ruin it for all generations to come. Your help and attention in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Tom Vrchota  
763-389-5614  
Princeton, Mn

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Note: After opting-out, you may receive emails that you have specifically requested from American Family. If you are a current American Family customer, you may still receive transactional emails regarding your existing policies or accounts with American Family. American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates utilize the PossibleNow DNESolution to administer this email opt-out process.

## I-137-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-137-001





From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC[Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:09 PM  
To: Lilley, Bliss  
Cc: Collins, Carly  
Subject: FW: CapX2020

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From: l.v.winn@att.net [mailto:l.v.winn@att.net]  
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2009 8:58 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Stephanie Strength,

My Wife and I are residents of Sky Harbor Airpark. It just came to our attention that an alternate route for the CapX2020 Powerline could be along 50th St. in our neighbor hood. This would put it right in the traffic pattern of our airport. There are over 50 airplanes that fly out of our residential airport and I feel the powerline would be a real compromise of safety and would greatly influence the value of our airpark. We are strongly opposed to this location of the powerline. Please consider our opinion when deciding its location.

Thank You,  
Larry and Diana Winn  
3279 45th St. W.  
Webster, MN 55088

### I-138-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded you comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

## COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Centerville Community Center - Thompson WI.

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-139-001

The unnecessary confiscation and destruction of private  
property in the unique Driftless Area of western Wisconsin  
when an existing corridor already exists without detouring into  
western Wisconsin

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

### I-139-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture

☒ Residential

☐ Conservation Easement

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Other: Recreation

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

We have purchased our property to preserve it in its Natural State and protect it from Development. IF this project were to go thru our property the Confiscation and Subsequent Destruction of 150' of Right of way thru the Center of this 40 Acre parcel would totally Destroy our purpose. Our property is located in Trempealeau County Wisconsin Directly in the Path of the Northernmost and Easternmost Possible Route in Western Wisconsin.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

In my opinion the most Sensitive Resources are the Very Unique, Beautiful and Sensitive Hills and Valleys of the unglaciated, Driftless area of Western Wisconsin. It makes absolutely no sense to Detour this project into the Hills of Western Wisconsin Destroying 100's of Acres of private property when a much shorter Corridor already exists much of which is already Publicly owned.

I-139-003

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-139-002

the project description was explained along with its purpose  
However the need was left questionable It was explained  
As Being "Redundant"

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: David Andersen

Representing (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: Box 98

City: Galesville State: WI Zip Code 54630

Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-582-2595

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-139-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-139-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

June 30, 2009

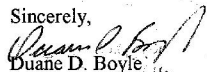
Stephanie Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
USDA, Rural Utilities Service  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571  
Washington, DC 20250-1571

RE: CAPX 2020-Scoping decision doc PUC no. ET2/TL-08-1474

Dear Ms. Strength,

I see that the 57<sup>th</sup> street Alternate has been changed to 50<sup>th</sup> street W.. The reasoning was to avoid homes along 57<sup>th</sup> Street W.. I would like to point out that there are Twenty mail boxes on 57<sup>th</sup> Street W. from Elmore to Hwy. 35W and nineteen mail boxes on 50<sup>th</sup> Street W.. I do not see why the twenty is that much more important than the nineteen on 50<sup>th</sup> Street West. I did notice that 66 street west contains only two or three houses. I would also like to establish the point that you would be moving seven blocks closer to the Sky Harbor air park (refer my April 8, 2009 letter to you) housing some forty planes and crop dusters. In addition this past weekend three hot air balloons were operating out of the air part flying every which way which could create a very dangerous situation. I would like to also add that at the intersection just west of County road 5 this new proposed 50<sup>th</sup> street line would run directly through one of the largest organic dairy farms in the state, the Coffing residents. Most of the people on 50<sup>th</sup> street west have not written because the original alternate was 57<sup>th</sup> street not 50<sup>th</sup> street. I myself living on 50<sup>th</sup> street am vehemently against the project and especially against the 50<sup>th</sup> street new proposal. I and my neighbor have spent thousands of dollars along with the US Fish and wildlife service establishing a natural wildlife area containing one hundred acres. We have planted thousands of trees and wild prairie grasses. The transmission line would destroy our whole concept as well as having devastating effect on our neighboring land values. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Duane D. Boyle  
3850 W. 50<sup>th</sup> street  
Webster, Mn. 55088  
952-652-4041

#### I-140-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

## COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

*Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.*

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? CAPX2020 Plainview High School June 16, 2009

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

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If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement  
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Property used for agriculture, recreation (get away)  
and future residential development.

Located at <sup>southeast</sup>~~southwest~~ corner of 117<sup>th</sup> Street NW Oronoco  
and Olmsted county road 31.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

The most sensible routing ~~but~~ of the two options  
for the 161KV line in NW Olmsted county  
would be the one which takes advantage of  
the abandoned railroad right-of-way (now the  
location of the Douglas Trail)

#### I-141-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-141-001

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

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Please tell us how to reach you.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: Richard F. Brubaker (Already on mailing list)

Representing (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: 601 Memorial Hwy SW

City: Rochester State: MN Zip Code: 55902

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-288-1093

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.



## COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? June 17, 2009 - Wamamingo, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Human impacts

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If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture      ☒ Residential      ☐ Conservation Easement  
☐ Commercial      ☐ Industrial      ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-142-001

Please consider the placement of the line in another location, as there are old growth Burr Oak trees on this site.

This property is located in Cannon Falls, MN, directly west of the southern stoplight on Highway 52.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

#### I-142-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

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Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Laurie Anderson

Representing (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: 31994 County 24 Blvd., P.O. Box 278

City: Cannon Falls, State: MN Zip Code: 55009

Daytime Phone (Optional): 507-263-3858

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

## COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? *Started Dec 11, 2008 at Cannon Falls + last meeting was at Wadena*

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-143-001

*1- Coal fired plants are not clean & we do not have adequate carbon dioxide removal system, which needs to be in place before construction of more transmission lines.*

I-143-002

*2- Power plants in Wisconsin, like Pleasant Prairie should be responsible for producing electricity in their own state rather than getting it from Minnesota & North Dakota.*

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

### I-143-001

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid.

The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

### I-143-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture      ☒ Residential      ☐ Conservation Easement  
☐ Commercial      ☐ Industrial      ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-143-003

1. Our farm is located on Highway 56 & we have some very rich agricultural soil. It is important that we can continue producing crops that will prevent soil changes as more land is being used for development purposes.

2. We do have wet land on our property & the law is written that we cannot tamper with that land because of matted & other vegetation & quaternary loess. Cap & 2020 does not have to follow the law.

3. We have a herd of cattle that graze in the area that has been proposed for the line. They will no longer come close to stay & stay. We may have to sell our cattle & everyone can just depend on the big factory farms to produce the food, this will be another way to get rid of the small rural farms.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-143-004

1. I have been employed in the health field for many years & on a Rd. We are very concerned about the long term effects these high voltage lines can have on the health & safety of our grandchildren who live on our farm, ourselves & also our herd of beef cattle.

2. Biological, which we mentioned above #2, also this would have a severe adverse effect on our natural resources including all the wild life we have in this area.

3. Our farm has been in the family for many years. Recently a man by the name of Hans Bakken who is a local historian from Jondal, Norway, traveled to our farm & is writing a book about a Norwegian family that settled in our farm in 1876. The picture of the farm will be in his book. We need to preserve the beauty & culture of rural America.

I-143-005

### I-143-003

Your comment has been noted. Regulations and potential impacts to wetlands will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### I-143-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### I-143-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-143-006

*Would like to have more explain as to why they projected that there will be an increase in population in Minnesota to require more electricity. We did not see any statistics as to how they came to that conclusion.*

I-143-007

*Did not mention what they will do to prevent emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>*

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: *Henry & Runice BAUER*  
 Representing (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: *42599 Hwy 56 Blvd.*  
 City: *NEERSTRAND* State: *MINN* - *55053* Zip Code:  
 Daytime Phone (Optional): *507-789-6322*

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-143-006

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-143-006

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-143-007

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to air quality will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

June 30, 2009

To: Stephanie Strength  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
USDA, Rural Utilities Service  
Engineering and Environmental Staff  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571  
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Re: CAPX 2020 Project  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Scoping Decision Document  
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

Dear Ms. Strength,


We are very concerned about the proposal regarding the use of 50<sup>th</sup> Street West, in Webster, MN, in Rice county, as a new proposal alternate route for the CAPX 2020 Brookings to Hampton project. We are shocked to find that this additional route option, which was never mentioned before, is in our front yard.

Your most recent proposal – A-RIC – 003 (Sirek), you say the alternate of 50<sup>th</sup> Street West is better than 57<sup>th</sup> Street W. to avoid homes on 57<sup>th</sup> Street W. There are 20 mailboxes on 57<sup>th</sup> St., and 19 mailboxes on 50<sup>th</sup> St. W. Why protect residents on 57<sup>th</sup> St. W. and not on 50<sup>th</sup> Street W?

The Sky Harbor Airpark, (only ½ mile from 50<sup>th</sup> Street W.) with the frequent presence of low flying small aircraft, hot air balloons, and helicopters, makes the site especially unsuitable and completely unsafe.

We have worked with US Fish and Wildlife Service to establish secure wildlife habitat and wetlands, and planted thousands of trees over the past 17 years. This has been a lot of hard work, to preserve the natural habitat of this land. The transmission line would have a devastating effect on our neighboring land values. We living on 50<sup>th</sup> Street West, are vehemently against this project.

Sincerely,

  
Sally B. Boyle  
3850 – 50<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Webster, Mn. 55088  
Phone: 952-652-4041

#### I-144-001

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.



## COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Centerville - 6-24-09

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☐ Proximity to residences
- ☐ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

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Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project



If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☒ Agriculture      ☐ Residential      ☐ Conservation Easement  
☐ Commercial      ☐ Industrial      ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

C68 - 161, 69;

Replaces 2 poles in field with one so we can use a pivot irrigation system which is more economical and uses much less electricity than the traveling guns we now use.

Forward maps to Grant Stevenson - talked to him @ meeting

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

No comment

#### I-145-001

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route or pole locations for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

Yes

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Alice Brenengen  
Representing (Optional): Brenengen Family Farms  
Mailing Address: N11794 Fremont St.  
City: Trempealeau State: WI Zip Code: 54661  
Daytime Phone (Optional): 608-534-6642

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.



GRANT STEVENSON

